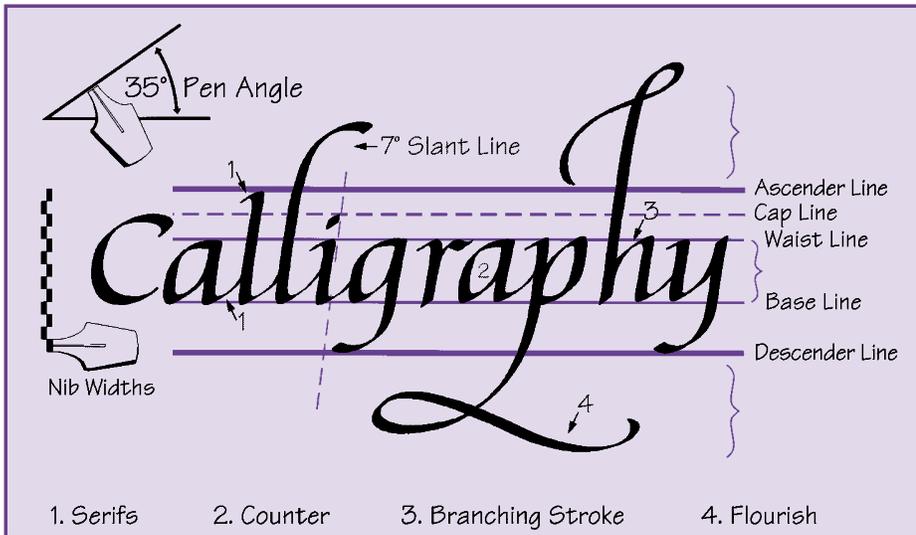


# The Calligraphy Glossary



Speedball® Hunt® Dip, Pen Holders, Pens & Steel Brushes

**Ascender:** The portion of a letter that rises above the waist line.

**Ascender line:** The guideline showing the height of an ascending letter.

**Base line:** The writing line that the body of a letter sits upon.

**Branching stroke:** The stroke which connects an arch to the downstroke of a letter.

**Cap line:** The guideline showing the height of a capital letter.

**Hairline:** A very thin line.

**Majuscule:** A capital, or upper case letter.

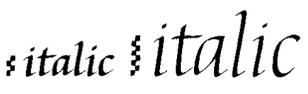
**Minuscule:** A lower case letter.

**Interword space:** The space between words.

**Interlinear space:** The space between lines of writing.

**Thick:** A heavy or blunt stroke.

**Thin:** A fine stroke, sometimes called a hairline.

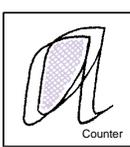


**Nib:** The pen point.

**Nib Width:** The width of any broad-edged tool. A letter written at 4 nib widths high will appear twice as heavy as one written at 8 nib widths high with the same pen (see

**Waist line:** The guideline showing the correct position for the upper boundary of the x-height.

**x-height:** The height of a letter or the portion of a letter that sits between the base line and the waist line (the height



**Counter:** The (white) space inside a letter.

**Cross bar:** Horizontal stroke forming part of a letter (such as the "t" or "H").

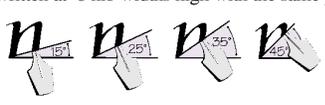


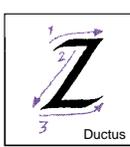
illustration above).

**Pen angle:** The angle at which the nib meets the paper, relative to the base line (see illustration above).

**Descender:** The portion of a letter that falls below the base line.

**Downstroke:** A stroke directed downwards towards the base line or descender line.

**Serif:** A small stroke which begins or ends a letter or a part of a letter.



**Ductus:** The number, direction and sequence of the strokes which make up a letter.

**Flourish:** A non-structural embellishment added to a letter.



**Slant:** The slope of a letter, measured from the vertical.

**Slant Line:** The guideline showing the correct slant.

**Spacing:**

*Counter space:* The space inside a letter.

*Interletter space:* The space between letters.



Panache® Calligraphy Fountain Pens

of the lower case "x").

For more information about calligraphy and calligraphy guilds in your area contact the Association for the Calligraphic Arts (ACA).



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Watch for the March 2001 debut of *Elegant Writing, Calligraphy for the Classroom*, an educational program co-sponsored by Speedball and the Association for the Calligraphic Arts.